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## **Allen's snowmobile trails and tourism sign legislation headed to governor**

**LANSING** – Tourism in northern Michigan is on track to get a big boost from legislation sent to the governor this week, announced Sen. Jason Allen, R- Traverse City.

Senate Bills 735 and 1329, sponsored by Allen, were passed by the House of Representatives and returned to the Senate this week for enrollment and presentation to the governor.

SB 735 allows for the erecting of tourist-oriented directional signs within the jurisdiction of a local unit of government, if approved by the local governing body.

“By allowing additional options to promote our hometown businesses gives local economies a shot in the arm,” Allen said. “Directional signs will aid tourists in finding all of northern Michigan’s hidden treasures.”

Allen sponsored the legislation after learning about difficulties the Mallard Golf Course owners Arnold and David Smith were facing in establishing a tourist-oriented directional sign for their business. According to David Smith, the one summer they had a directional sign their business increased.

SB 1239 will allow snowmobiles to be operated within the right-of-way of a public limited access highway, if the right-of-way is designated as a snowmobile trail through a joint agreement by the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources. The two departments would be in charge of establishing the details of the trail to ensure that the appropriate safety issues are addressed.

“Snowmobiling and other outdoor winter activities are essential components of northern Michigan’s economy,” Allen said. “Creating a continuous trail from Gaylord to Cheboygan by snowmobile will provide greater access for snowmobile enthusiasts and additional opportunities to enjoy Michigan’s ‘winter wonderland.’ I am hopeful the governor realizes the importance of these bills to northern Michigan and signs them into law.”

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